

## PUBLIC OWNERSHIP LEAGUE PLANS TO WAR AGAINST RAIDING OF WATER FUND

For a number of years a portion of the expense of conducting various city departments has been charged to the water fund.

This is done to wreck the profit surplus of a publicly-owned utility, the logical use of which would be to promote city ownership of other utilities, in the opinion of the Public Ownership League of Cook County.

Opponents of public ownership, especially those who are hostile to city ownership of the street car system, think it would be bad for their side if an existing public utility rolled up a big profit surplus. They are afraid that the people would demand that the profit of the water dep't be used in furthering the purchase of the street car system.

The Public Ownership league is ready to lead a fight in courts to stop the raiding of the water fund. At its meeting yesterday it authorized its officers to proceed with suit to restrain the city from using money of the water fund for any other purpose than that of direct benefit of the water department.

"The situation is such that we are sure of winning this suit," said Morton L. Johnson, pres. of Penny Phone league. "Let us enter this fight for the good of the people of Chicago and prove to them that not all the brains and not all the money is on the side of capital. Don't compromise! Show the people of Chicago that the work of the league is such that it is protecting and conserving the interests of the city!"

The league reaffirmed its intention proceeded with court action over the water fund before this, but the wise ones at City Hall played the game so that action of the P. O. L. would have endangered the wages of many innocent city employees. By directing the restraining order against 1917 appro-

priations before the 1917 city budget is made, injury to these workers is made impossible.

In 1916 \$745,400.90 was appropriated from the water fund to other city departments.

The league reaffirmed its intention of fighting the sale of the Automatic Phone Co. to the Chi. Tel. Co. to a finish. The league's plan for an order restraining the consummation of the telephone sale will be heard in Federal Judge Landis' court Wednesday. Federal action was secured by the purchase through a member of the league of a share of stock in the Chi. Tel. Co.

Actions are also due on the sale ordinance in Cook and Sangamon county courts.

The league put itself on record again as being ready to fight the plan of certain members of the school board to sell more of the public school land.

An appeal was made by Charles Dold for nonpartisan nomination of judges in place of the "star chamber" method of choosing candidates such as was pursued at the last election."

It became evident at the meeting yesterday that there is a feeling among some that the league is paying too much attention to militancy and too little to organization. It is agreed by all that thorough ward organization is essential to success.

### CHICAGO SOLDIER DEMENTED

Springfield, Ill.—Wm. O'Brien, believed of the 7th regiment of Chicago, spent last night in straight jacket at county jail. Became demented during night. Improved today and may be allowed to return to camp.

Private Harris E. Jones, Co. D, 4th infantry, Paris, Ill., committed suicide by cutting his throat with a razor at Camp Dunne yesterday,